

AFRICAN UNION

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**PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
155TH MEETING
31 OCTOBER 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

PSC/PR/comm(CLV)

COMMUNIQUE

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 155TH MEETING
OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL**

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 155th meeting held on 31 October 2008, adopted the following decision on the situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing by the Commissioner for Peace and Security on the situation in Eastern DRC and the efforts aimed at resolving the crisis in that region;
2. **Recalls** the statement issued by the Chairperson of the Commission on 28 October 2008, as well as the Press Statement issued at its 154th meeting held on 30 October 2008;
3. **Reiterates** its serious concern at the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in North Kivu, since the resumption of hostilities between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) of the dissident General Laurent Nkunda, on 28 August 2008. Council **demand**s that all the parties concerned scrupulously respect the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, ensure the protection of the civilian population and facilitate the work of humanitarian agencies;
4. **Strongly condemns** the recent CNDP offensive in Eastern DRC, in serious violation of the *Actes d'engagement* signed by the parties to the peace process in the Kivus, within the framework of the Conference on Peace, Security and Development in the provinces of North and South Kivu, held in Goma from 6 to 23 January 2008. In this regard, Council **takes note** of the announcement of a unilateral ceasefire by General Laurent Nkunda, and **request**s that this ceasefire be scrupulously respected and that the hostilities be unconditionally and definitely brought to an end;
5. **Recalls** the crucial importance of the implementation of the *Actes d'engagement* for the restoration of lasting peace, security and stability in the Kivu provinces. In this regard, Council **underlines** the need for the signatories of these Agreements to scrupulously respect them and further **calls on** the CNDP to resume, without delay, its participation in the Amani Programme;
6. **Recalls also** the decision taken by the 23rd meeting of Council held in Libreville, Gabon, on 10 January 2005, on the situation in Eastern DRC and the relations between DRC and Rwanda. Council **underscores** the

- urgent need to implement fully the Nairobi Communiqué signed on 9 November 2007, between the Governments of the DRC and Rwanda, in order to consolidate the steps already taken within this framework and to facilitate the search for a lasting solution to all aspects of the problem posed by the presence of the ex-Far/Interahamwe in Eastern DRC;
7. **Urges** the countries of the region to continue to support the peace and national reconciliation process in the DRC, and to speed up the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region signed in Nairobi, on 15 December 2006, with the view to creating conditions for lasting peace and stability in the region;
 8. **Expresses its full support** to the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) for the commendable efforts it continues to deploy to restore peace, security and stability in the DRC, **stresses** the urgent need to reinforce MONUC through additional troops and equipment to enable it fully discharge its mandate and **encourages** the United Nations Security Council to expeditiously take all steps required to this end. Council **firmly condemns** the attacks carried out against MONUC;
 9. **Pays tribute** to the humanitarian organizations for their work on the ground in support to the civilian populations;
 10. **Commends** the visit of the Chairperson of the Commission, Jean Ping, to Kinshasa, from 10 to 12 October 2008, as well as the consultations that he continues to undertake with the Congolese authorities, the countries of the Region and concerned international actors, in order to facilitate the resolution of the crisis in Eastern DRC, as well as the promotion of peace, security and stability in the Great Lakes region. Council **requests** him to pursue and intensify his efforts;
 11. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

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